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THE

Livestock and Meat

SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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In this issue:

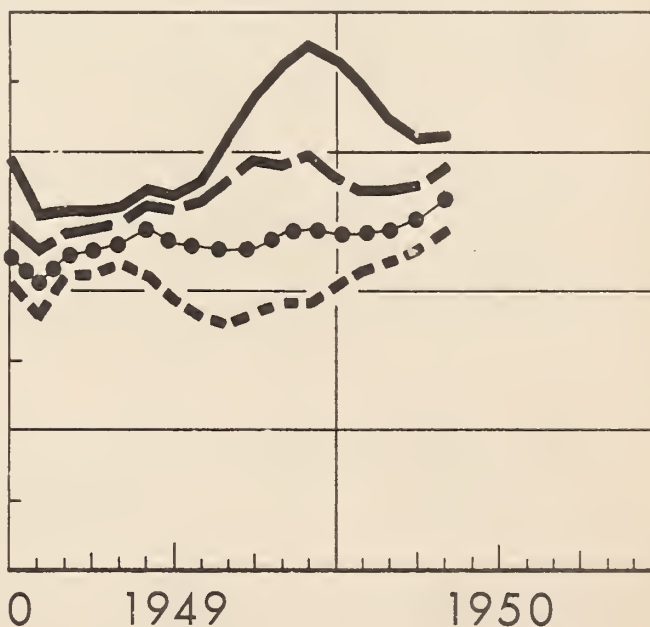
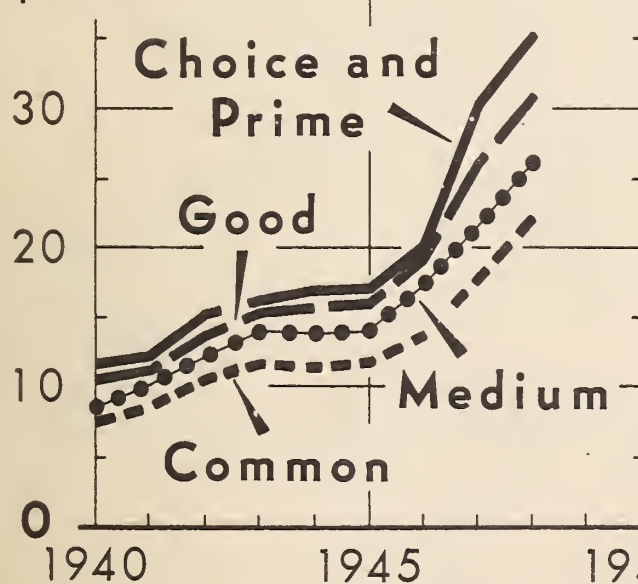
The Grading System for Livestock and Meat

STEER PRICES BY GRADES, CHICAGO

BY YEARS

BY QUARTERS

\$ PER CWT.



DATA FOR MAY 1950 ARE AV. OF FIRST 3 WEEKS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 47655-XX

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Chicago prices of each grade of slaughter steers in May were higher than last May, but the best grades were up most. The spread between average prices of Prime and Choice and of Common steers was \$6.88 per 100 pounds in 3 weeks of May. In May 1949 the spread was \$4.05. A short supply of best-quality steers this winter and spring has caused the price spread, though narrowing seasonally, to be wider than last year.

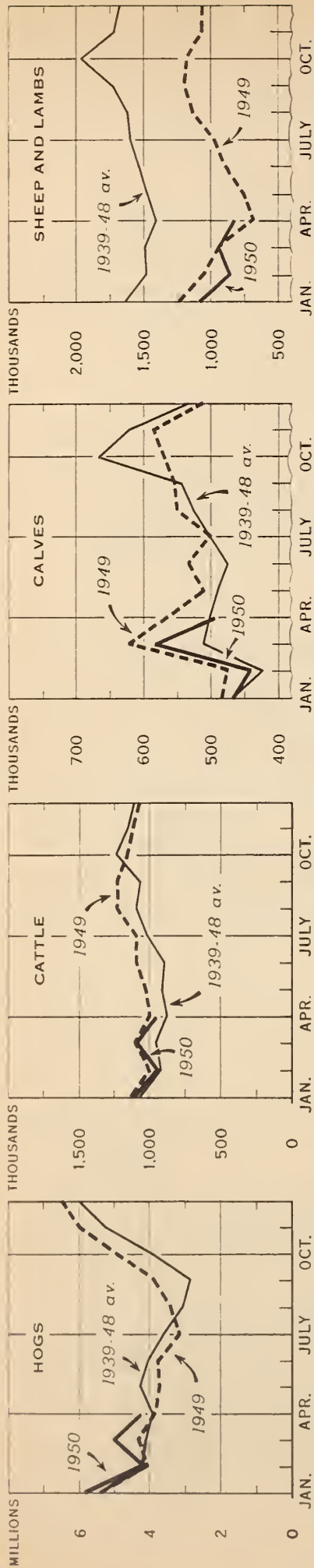
Prices of each grade except the top have

risen for 3 months, but the greatest advance has occurred since mid-April. Only for Medium and Common grades is an increase usual at this time of year. Nearly all meat animal prices rose in late April and May, apparently because of a stronger demand for meat.

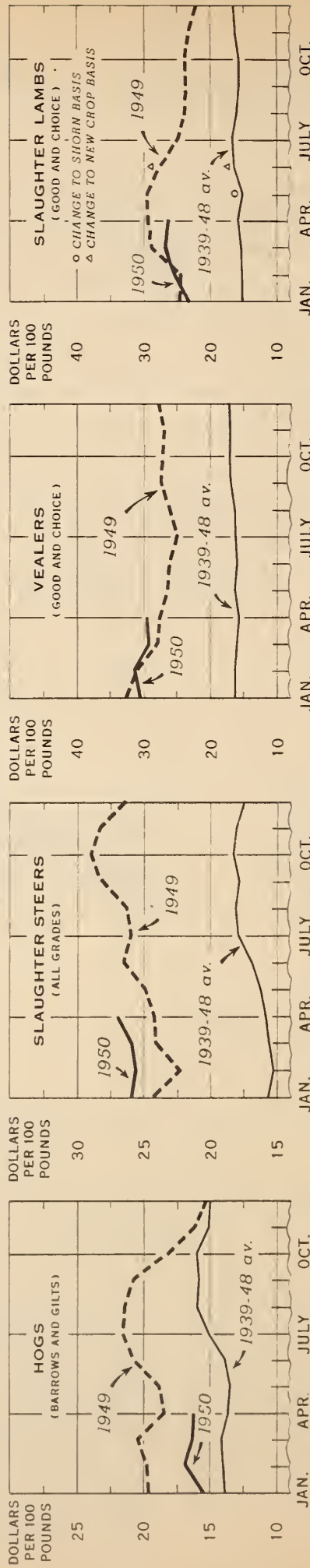
If demand levels off, prices of the lower grades are expected to decline seasonally during the summer, but those of the upper grades may strengthen further and reach a peak in late summer or early fall.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

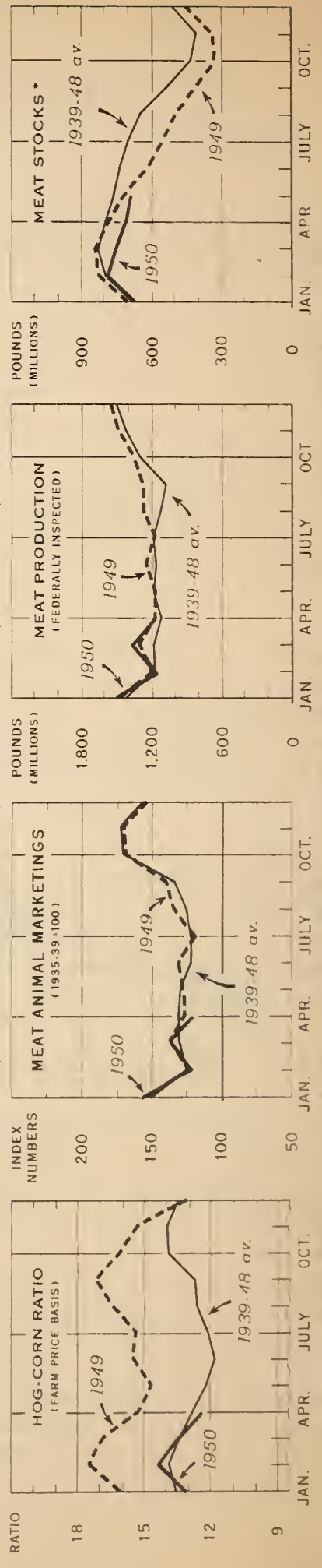
FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES



MARKET PRICES, CHICAGO



HOG-CORN RATIO, MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS, MEAT PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS, UNITED STATES



*BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES BEGINNING OF MONTH

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 24, 1950

SUMMARY

Prospects are for seasonally high prices of most classes of meat animals this summer. Some reaction from the rapid April-May price rise may first occur, but further advances are likely later.

Nearly all classes participated in the April-May uptrend. Prices of hogs rose most. Slaughter ewes were the only market class of livestock for which prices declined.

Barrows and gilts climbed \$3.50 per 100 pounds from mid-April to mid-May. Their average of \$19.46 at Chicago the week ended May 20 was the highest since last September and was 63 cents above the price in the same May week of last year. In all weeks of January through April, prices of barrows and gilts were lower than a year earlier, usually by \$3.00 to \$4.00.

Prices of Choice and Prime steers for slaughter were steady as market supplies of that grade increased seasonally, but prices of all other grades of slaughter steers, stockers and feeders, and cows advanced in price. Prices of all grades and classes of cattle in mid-May were substantially higher than in May 1949, and close to the records for the month set in May 1948.

Most likely to go up further this summer are prices of barrows and gilts, for which it is the high season. Prices of well-finished cattle may also strengthen further. Peaks for both may be reached in late summer or early fall. A seasonal decline in hog prices -- probably at least an average decline -- is expected next fall. Prices of top grade cattle may fall off moderately.

Prices of stocker and feeder cattle and lower grades of slaughter steers will probably decline during the summer, although strength in prices of well-finished steers may be delaying their seasonal downturn.

Marketings of barrows and gilts for slaughter promise to be only a little larger this summer than last. Marketings of well-finished slaughter cattle, which to date this year have been small relative to the record-large volume of cattle feeding, are expected to increase materially in the next few months. Total cattle slaughter has averaged slightly below last year but is expected to about equal 1949 during the summer and be larger than 1949 during the fall.

Prices for sheep and lambs are likely to decline seasonally this summer, but perhaps not as much as usual. Prices will probably remain comparatively high. Sheep and lamb slaughter in April and May was larger than last year but in months to come it is expected to be smaller than a year earlier.

The higher prices for meat animals in late April and May paralleled a rising trend for retail prices of meat. However, weekly production of meat under Federal inspection was equal to or larger than a year earlier. Demand for meat apparently has strengthened this spring. The increase in demand is the first, aside from usual seasonal changes, since the summer of 1948. Nevertheless, the retail value of meat consumed has no more than held its own with the increase in personal incomes occurring this year, and relative to incomes it is slightly below average. Demand for meat is likely to remain a little below prewar average relationships to income. The long-run outlook is for demand to increase substantially, even though it might represent a slowly declining part of total national incomes and expenditures.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Most Livestock Prices Sharply Higher

Prices of meat animals have advanced rapidly beginning in mid-April. Prices of barrows and gilts rose most, but almost all classes moved up. It was the most nearly uniform price increase since May 1949. In the 12 months intervening, price movements had differed among classes and, except for a growing weakness in hog prices, were mainly seasonal.

Meat production under Federal inspection increased week by week in April and declined only moderately in May. It has been as large or larger than a year earlier. Since meat supplies were well maintained, the higher prices of meat animals are ascribed primarily to a stronger demand.

Prices of barrows and gilts at Chicago climbed \$5.50 per 100 pounds from mid-April to mid-May. Their average of \$19.46 the week ended May 20 was the highest since last September and 63 cents above the price in the same May week last year. In all weeks of January through April, prices of barrows and gilts were lower than a year earlier, usually by \$3.00 to \$4.00. Prices of sows increased less in April-May than barrows and gilts, but in mid-May they too were higher than a year earlier. Although prices of hogs were about due to rise seasonally, these increases were earlier and much faster than usual.

Prices of well-finished cattle, which usually decline at this time of year, were strong in April and May. For the Choice and Prime slaughter steers, prices were steady as market supplies increased. For Good grade steers, prices rose to an average of \$29.00 per 100 pounds at Chicago in early May, about \$2.00 more than in mid-April and \$4.00 more than in May 1949. Feeder and stocker steers at Kansas City brought more than \$27.00, up \$1.50 or more from mid-April and \$3.00 from a year before. Prices of all grades and classes of cattle were close to the records for May set two years ago.

Prices of lambs were steady to slightly higher in April-May. Slaughter ewes declined steadily in price, the only market class to do so. The season's peak for lamb prices is usually in April or May, but for ewes it is about a month earlier.

Table 1.- Market prices per 100 pounds for selected classes of meat animals, by weeks, March-May 1950

	:Slaughter steers:	Stocker and	:Vealers,	:Barrows	:Slaughter lambs,	
Week	: Chicago	: feeder	:Good and:	: and	: woolled,	
ended	: Good	:Average,:	: steers,	:Choice,	:gilts,	:Good and Choice,
	: grade	:4 grades:	Kansas City 1/	:Chicago	:Chicago	: Chicago
	:Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
:						
March 4	: 27.30	25.61	24.99	30.00	16.88	26.89
11	: 27.49	25.85	25.72	28.80	16.84	27.25
18	: 27.31	25.68	25.25	29.00	16.45	26.78
25	: 27.15	25.87	25.25	29.00	16.09	27.10
:						
April 1	: 27.40	26.29	25.28	30.15	15.86	26.40
8	: 27.44	26.47	25.40	29.20	15.94	26.25
15	: 27.39	26.60	25.82	29.55	16.06	26.30
22	: 27.18	26.60	25.88	29.20	16.26	26.35
29	: 28.44	27.85	26.04	29.90	16.97	27.25
:						
May 6	: 28.85	28.48	26.32	29.90	17.55	27.42
13	: 28.92	28.70	27.39	30.60	19.14	26.88
20	: 29.20	28.99	27.68	30.95	19.46	27.02
:						

1/ Average for all weights and grades.

Compiled from Livestock Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

Meat Production in April-May Above Last Year

Weekly production of meat increased in April while prices were rising, and averaged a little larger than in April 1949. Production declined in May but averaged at least equal to last May.

Hog slaughter rose to 1,103 thousand head the week ended April 29, then began a seasonal decline. Pork production has been steadily above last year.

Cattle slaughter increased somewhat after early April as supplies of well-finished fed cattle expanded seasonally. The number slaughtered under Federal inspection in May was about equal to May 1949, but average slaughter weights were lighter and beef production was a little smaller.

Through mid-May, sheep and lamb slaughter remained above the very low year-earlier level.

Demand for Meat Stronger Following Prolonged Decline

Higher prices for meat animals in April and May paralleled rising price trends in retail prices of meat. Retail prices as reported at Baltimore each Wednesday by the Production and Marketing Administration showed gains between April 12 and May 17 for 24 of 27 meat items. Many increases were of 5 to 8 cents per pound, or around 10 percent. Demand for meat apparently strengthened considerably this spring.

Just after the war, demand for meat was unusually strong relative to consumers' incomes. In the summer of 1948, demand rose to an all-time high. It then weakened, beginning a prolonged decline. In 1949, the retail value of meat consumed averaged slightly below a prewar relationship to incomes. The index of retail value of consumption in 1949 was 243 compared with an index of disposable personal income of 250 (1935-39=100). (Table 2.)

In the first quarter of 1950, the retail value of consumption was slightly below both the first quarter of 1949 and the 1949 average. It was apparently unaffected by the substantial increase in personal incomes at the time.

Much of the decline in demand for meat the last two years is attributed to a growing weakness in demand for pork, and especially in demand for the fat cuts of pork. The retail value of pork consumption in the first quarter of 1950 was down 8 percent from a year earlier. The retail value of beef, on the other hand, was up a little from the first quarter of last year.

Meat prices this spring responded to the larger personal incomes of this year. They increased faster than last spring. For the second quarter, prices of beef will average considerably higher than a year earlier, and prices of pork moderately lower. Meat consumption in the second quarter will probably be as large as the 34.9 pounds per person in that period last year. With as much or more meat as a year earlier, and a higher average price for all meat combined, the retail value of consumption will be larger. On a seasonally adjusted basis it will exceed also the figure for the first quarter this year.

The strengthening this spring is the first material increase in demand for meat since the summer of 1948. Nevertheless, the gain in demand is probably no greater than the rise that has occurred in incomes. The retail value of meat consumed is probably remaining slightly below a prewar average relationship to incomes.

It is unlikely that demand for meat will increase much more in coming months or the next year or two, unless it is stimulated by a further rise in personal incomes. The retail value of meat consumption will probably hold slightly below a prewar average relationship to income. There are several reasons for this. A minor one is the prospective continued weakness in demand for fat cuts of pork. More important is the slow long-run decline in the value of, and expenditures for, meat relative to total incomes. In an expanding industrial nation such as the United States, the production and value of meat, and of all foods combined, will not rise as fast as the output and value of industrial goods. Therefore, even though the value of all meat expands absolutely, it becomes a smaller proportion of total national income.

Table 2.- Retail value of meat consumed compared with disposable personal income, seasonally adjusted, by quarter-year, 1948 to date

All meat						
Quarter year	Actual values		Adjusted for seasonal variation			
	Average		Index number, 1935-39=100			
	Civilian	retail	Consumption	Retail	Retail	Disposable
	consumption:	price	per	price	value of	personal
	per capita	per pound	capita	per pound	consumption	income
	1/				per capita 2/	per capita
	Pounds	Cents	Pounds	Cents	Percent	Percent
1948						
Jan.-Mar.	38.1	---	36.9	---	261	243
Apr.-June	35.7	---	38.2	---	285	253
July-Sept.	33.4	---	35.7	---	282	259
Oct.-Dec.	58.2	---	34.3	---	257	259
Year	145.4	---	145.4	---	271	254
1949						
Jan.-Mar.	37.1	---	36.0	---	244	254
Apr.-June	34.9	---	37.2	---	255	251
July-Sept.	34.5	---	36.8	---	250	247
Oct.-Dec.	37.5	---	33.8	---	223	247
Year	143.8	---	143.8	---	243	250
1950						
Jan.-Mar.	37.3	---	36.1	---	238	260
	Beef					
1948						
Jan.-Mar.	16.2	66.3	16.0	67.6	271	243
Apr.-June	15.3	73.0	16.6	73.4	303	253
July-Sept.	15.3	80.9	15.3	78.8	301	259
Oct.-Dec.	15.8	74.3	14.7	74.9	274	259
Year	62.6	73.7	62.6	73.7	287	254
1949						
Jan.-Mar.	16.0	64.0	15.2	65.2	257	254
Apr.-June	16.0	65.7	17.3	66.2	286	251
July-Sept.	16.3	68.2	16.2	66.4	268	247
Oct.-Dec.	15.1	69.3	14.1	69.4	243	247
Year	63.4	66.8	63.4	66.8	264	250
1950						
Jan.-Mar.	15.5	67.2	15.3	68.4	261	260
	Pork, excluding lard					
1948						
Jan.-Mar.	18.4	50.2	17.0	51.7	257	243
Apr.-June	17.1	50.6	17.8	51.4	269	253
July-Sept.	14.3	56.4	16.3	54.4	267	259
Oct.-Dec.	18.6	52.0	16.8	51.5	253	259
Year	68.4	52.3	68.4	52.3	262	254
1949						
Jan.-Mar.	17.9	47.0	16.6	48.4	236	254
Apr.-June	16.1	47.4	16.7	48.2	235	251
July-Sept.	14.8	49.4	17.4	47.6	242	247
Oct.-Dec.	18.8	43.9	16.9	43.6	215	247
Year	67.6	46.9	67.6	46.9	232	250
1950						
Jan.-Mar.	18.8	41.7	17.4	42.9	219	260

1/ Weighted U.S. average retail price for important cuts. 2/ Computed from estimated retail weight equivalent of consumption. Because much meat is delivered through other than retail channels, this is not consumer expenditure for meat.

MEAT AND INCOME

Retail Value of Consumption and Income, Per Person

BY YEARS

BY QUARTERS*

% OF 1935-39

Retail value of
meat consumed

Disposable
income



*SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATE

Price Trends May Be Upward
Through Late Summer

Prices of most meat animals and meats usually trend higher during the summer, the season of shortest supplies. This year a rise is again likely, although a brief period of stability or of reaction from the recent advance may first occur. Prices of hogs will probably reach a seasonal peak in late summer. The supplies of pork will be only a little larger this summer than last, since most of the increased number of hogs raised from the 1949 fall pig crop have already been marketed.

Prices of stocker and feeder cattle and of the lower grades of slaughter cattle are likely to decline seasonally during the summer. On the other hand, prices of cattle of Good grade or better may strengthen further. Unless demand continues upward, a summer rise in prices of these classes would probably be moderate, since it would start from a high level and would be retarded by materially increasing supplies of grain-fed cattle.

Market supplies of well-finished cattle for slaughter have been small the past winter and spring relative to the record-large volume of cattle feeding. Through March, the number of slaughter steers of the two top grades sold at three midwest markets was down greatly from a year earlier. By April the supply of Good steers had reached the corresponding 1949 level. Choice and Prime steers, although received in increasing numbers, have remained comparatively scarce.

Reduced marketings of top-grade cattle have resulted chiefly from the young age and light weights of the cattle put on feed during the winter. Both the January 1 and April 1 reports of cattle on feed showed that cattle would be held on feed until later this year than last. Moreover, even though many feeders have been content to take the visible profits realized by bringing their cattle up to Medium or low Good grade, the wide margin for Choice grade has been an incentive for other feeders to outbid slaughterers for cattle to go back on feed. Consequently, there has been more turnover in cattle this year than in 1949. Reports show a greater increase in farm sales and shipments of stocker and feeder cattle than is reflected in numbers slaughtered.

Total cattle slaughter this summer is expected to be approximately equal to that last summer. Slaughter may not decrease so much this fall as last, and in the fourth quarter the number slaughtered may be larger than a year earlier. Prices late in the year are likewise expected to trace a pattern different from the advance after August last year. Prices of Good and better grades of slaughter steers may reach their seasonal peak in late summer or early fall, and are likely to begin a seasonal decline considerably earlier than last year. Following a summer downtrend, prices of lower grades of slaughter cattle and of stocker and feeder steers may be fairly steady in late months.

Prices of sheep and lambs are expected to continue high even though declining seasonally during the summer. Prices in late April and May were close to the 1949 record prices for the season, despite the larger slaughter in those months this year than last. The higher level of slaughter this

spring is a more normal seasonal distribution than in 1949, when spring slaughter was very small. It has been built from large marketings of yearling lambs out of the Southwest and from earlier movement of spring lambs out of some areas this year than in 1949. Sheep and lamb slaughter during most of the remaining months of 1950 is expected to be smaller than a year earlier. This return to a lower level of slaughter will tend to limit the seasonal decline in prices of both sheep and lambs this summer and early fall.

Table 3.- Average price per 100 pounds for beef steers for slaughter, by grades, Chicago, by years 1940-49, by months 1949-50

Data for cover page chart					
Year or month	Grade				
	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	All grades
	and Prime				
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1940	11.86	10.48	8.84	7.51	10.43
1941	12.23	11.36	10.02	8.64	11.33
1942	15.19	13.90	12.22	10.40	13.79
1943	16.23	15.34	14.01	11.66	15.30
1944	17.05	15.73	13.87	11.25	15.44
1945	17.30	16.00	14.12	11.73	16.18
1946	20.24	19.32	17.36	13.75	19.16
1947	30.64	26.22	21.76	18.04	25.83
1948	35.24	30.96	26.31	22.16	30.88
1949	28.65	26.07	23.17	19.77	25.80
1949					
Jan.	29.41	24.72	22.41	20.49	24.35
Feb.	25.61	22.99	20.49	18.39	22.25
Mar.	25.88	24.19	22.58	21.21	24.14
Apr.	25.81	24.37	22.87	21.22	24.20
May	26.12	24.92	23.62	22.07	24.88
June	27.51	26.37	24.61	21.26	26.47
July	27.02	25.96	23.46	19.27	25.86
Aug.	28.01	26.50	23.06	18.20	26.28
Sept.	31.33	28.22	23.01	17.83	28.11
Oct.	34.27	29.63	23.24	18.48	28.93
Nov.	36.25	29.35	24.26	19.02	28.21
Dec.	37.77	29.91	24.50	19.23	26.47
1950					
Jan.	36.80	28.14	24.13	20.44	25.98
Feb.	34.70	27.19	24.13	21.55	25.58
Mar.	32.24	27.33	24.51	22.13	25.90
Apr.	30.94	27.66	25.21	22.99	26.94
May 1/	31.12	28.99	26.86	24.24	28.72

1/ Average of first three weeks.

Compiled from Livestock Market News; Livestock Branch, PMA.

Early Lambs in Favorable
Condition May 1

The condition of early spring lambs on May 1 was generally favorable, in spite of cool weather and slow growth of pastures in many sections.

In California, timely rains improved feed supplies and development of lambs. Early lambs in that State will be marketed later and at heavier weight this year than last, with a peak movement expected to be reached before the end of May.

In the Pacific Northwest, cold weather and lack of new green pasture will retard marketings of early lambs, but more of them are nevertheless expected to move at slaughter condition, rather than as feeders, this year than last.

Rainfall in Texas sheep country improved the prospects for early lambs there.

Although hindered somewhat by slow growth of pastures due to limited rainfall, early lambs in the Southeast have developed well. Because lambing was earlier, early lambs from that region will be marketed in advance of usual dates.

Spring Pastures Poor

Pastures and meadows have developed slowly this spring. In most northern pastures, the stock-carrying capacity on May 1 was below average. The condition of pastures on May 1, according to the Crop Report, was down to 74 percent compared with 85 percent on May 1, 1949 and the May average of 81 percent. Hay meadows were also in below-average condition. Western ranges failed to make the usual new growth in April and on May 1 were poorer than average. Feeding of hay and roughage has been necessary in much of the country. Livestock were nevertheless reported in fairly good condition except in the northern range States and local dry areas.

Meat Inspection Service Offered
to Local Slaughterers

A full Federal meat inspection and certification service will be offered beginning June 2 to meat packers who sell their products in local areas without crossing State lines. Use of the service will be voluntary. Federal inspection has been provided only to packers engaging in interstate commerce, for whom it is mandatory under the Meat Inspection Act of 1906.

The new service, like the old, will be administered by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the USDA. However, since its regulations will be established under the Farm Products Inspection Act rather than the 1906 Act, it does not have the status of the regular inspection of interstate slaughterers. Products identified as inspected and certified in the new service will not be eligible for interstate shipment or for entrance into plants operating under the Act of 1906.

The certification stamp for meat inspected under the new service will differ slightly from the familiar circular stamp found on Federally inspected meat. The new stamp will be diamond shaped, and will carry the legend, "U. S. Inspected and Certified." Wording on the round stamp is "U. S. Inspected and Passed."

World Meat Production Up
5 Percent Last Year

Production of 68.3 billion pounds of meat in 1949 in the principal livestock countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, has been estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the USDA. This was 5 percent more than production in 1948 and slightly larger than the 1934-38 average. The 1949 meat production was one of the largest, if not the largest, on record.

The increase in 1949 over 1948 was general. Only a few countries, such as Canada and Mexico, had reductions, and those were small. Improved grazing and feed conditions, a greater number of livestock on farms, and strong demand for meat were mainly responsible for a larger output last year. In much of South America, dry weather caused some liquidation of herds, which pushed meat production above the high 1948 level and almost to the 1947 record high.

Present conditions point to a favorable outlook for another increase in world meat production in 1950.

THE GRADING SYSTEM FOR LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

by

E. E. Miller

For all livestock except breeding animals and minor species there has been established a set of market grades and classes, defined and described by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Official U. S. grade standards have also been set up for nearly all meats. Taken together, market grades and classes comprise a system of designation which provides useful distinctions between otherwise broad categories. There is an obviously large and significant difference, for example, between Choice and Common slaughter steers or between Good and Canner cows. Consumers have preferences for meat according to its quality. Despite the fact that most sales are made after a personal inspection by the buyer, a system of market classes and grades is basic in so complex an activity as trade in livestock and meats. It is the intent of this discussion to summarize the important points of the existing classifications and to outline briefly some of the recent proposals for changing or expanding them.

In their general nature, market standards provide a system of concepts and language that is of value to both buyers and sellers. When standard market grades are used, the seller has a better idea of what the market will pay for his product, and the buyer can determine more accurately what he will

have to pay for the kind of product he wants. A certification as to grade is a valuable guide in marketing and may sometimes be a protection against defects or unwanted characteristics not apparent without a very careful inspection. So much reliance may be placed on grading, in fact, that in some cases trading takes place without a personal inspection by the buyer. The advantages that accrue from a system of grades have both long- and short-time value in that they can be used to point out more effectively the trends in market demands.

In their more specific application, market grades of live animals and meats have their greatest importance in facilitating trade and in making possible more meaningful price quotations and market reports. In addition, market grades of meats are an aid in merchandising. Considerable reliance is placed on the grade certification of meat by housewives, and retailers give recognition to this fact in meeting their demands.

The development of standard market classes and grades of livestock and meats was made difficult by the highly varied physical characteristics of both the live animals and dressed meat. The variations within grades and the limits between grades had to be carefully outlined. Animals or carcasses typical of the various grades needed to be accurately described. Photographs were necessary to supplement written descriptions. Uniform grade terms and concepts were also essential, yet those desired for adoption were often in conflict with terms already in use. The establishment of national standards was given particular emphasis when, in 1916, the Department of Agriculture was authorized to report market conditions and transactions at the various livestock and meat markets. ^{1/} The standards set up for these reports were effected through the cooperation of the livestock marketing interests, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, producer organizations, various meat merchandising interests and the Department of Agriculture. From the preliminary classifications in the first market reporting by the USDA, a rather complete system of classes and grades has since been elaborated for use in all official market reports on livestock and meats. Changes in terms or definitions of the official standards have been made from time to time and are still being made, largely through mutual agreement of the trade and the Department of Agriculture.

The various kinds of livestock are broadly grouped according to the purpose for which they are to be used. U. S. standards set up are for Slaughter, Feeder, and Stocker animals. The market class is determined by sex. The class is usually subdivided into age and weight groups, which are easily defined and applied by impartial methods. The final breakdown is into grades, determined according to the relative excellence of animals within each previous grouping. Grade designations are more subjective in nature than are classes and, in general, are determined by a careful appraisal and evaluation of three factors: conformation, finish and quality. The meaning of these terms has become standardized and is intended to provide a sound basis for determining the relative desirability of the animal in relation to the purpose for which it is used.

^{1/} Previously there had been attempts to set up grades for general acceptance in local areas. Federal grades set up after 1916 drew on the earlier work, especially that at the University of Illinois, where Professor H. W. Mumford published a bulletin on grades for cattle as early as 1902.

Since it was generally recognized that the class and grade terms used to describe slaughter animals should be related to resulting carcass grades, corresponding carcass standards were usually set up for each class and grade of slaughter animals. There were originally almost as many grades and classes of meat as of live animals. Use of the full set of standards for meat proved somewhat impractical, as it was found that many of the distinguishing differences in slaughter animals did not carry through as important differences in carcasses. Where grade standards can be applied interchangeably, as in steer, heifer and cow beef, no separate identification of class is used in the meat grading system. The carcass classes remaining in use are primarily age selections such as beef versus veal, and those for mature male animals such as bulls.

The grades and classes of slaughter animals in use at the present time are shown in the following table. Grade distinctions are specific for each class of animal. There thus is no necessary correspondence between standards for, say, Good grade cows and Good grade sows. Grades are available for certain additional classes that lack enough animals marketed to make grading effective. Some classes, such as boars, are not graded.

Feeder and stocker animals follow a corresponding system of classification. In actual practice, some classes of animals such as stags (of cattle), vealers, sows, boars, stags (of swine), rams and mature wethers comprise so small a percentage of animals sold for feeder or stocker purposes that official grades have not been set up although definitions are theoretically possible. For feeder and stocker animals, the top grade is called Fancy instead of Prime and the lowest grade is called Inferior.

Grades are probably used more often for specification buying of feeder and stocker cattle than of any other class of livestock. This comes about because many Corn Belt feeders place orders with buyers for stock to be bought and shipped from range country.

There are fewer grades and classes of meat than of live animals. Beef is graded Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, Cutter and Canner. The official grades of veal, calf, lamb, yearling and mutton carcasses are Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, and Cull. Standards for hog carcasses and cuts of pork have been developed but not put into general use.

Market reports on livestock usually quote prices by market class and by grade. However, prices of barrows and gilts are usually reported by weight groups, with almost all receipts considered "Good and Choice." Although grades are used to report prices of cattle and sheep at central markets, this does not mean that animals sold there are officially graded. Buying and selling is done by pens or lots of animals, many of them of mixed grades, ranging in number from a single animal to several carloads. The grade of animals may be taken into consideration but perhaps not mentioned by either buyer or seller in their bargaining. The reporting of prices on a grade basis is accomplished through the activities of the market reporter, who makes a judgment as to grade on sample lots and determines the price range by grades from the sale prices on those lots.

Table 4.- Market classes and grades of slaughter livestock 1/

Specie and class	Grade						
	Prime	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Cutter	Canner: Cull
Cattle and calves:							
Steers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Heifers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cows		x	x	x	x	x	x
Bulls		x	x	x	x	x	x
Stags		x	x	x	x	x	x
Vealers	x	x	x	x	x		x
Calves	x	x	x	x	x		x
Hogs:							
Barrows and gilts:		x	x	x			x
Sows		x	x	x			x
Pigs		x	x	x			x
Sheep and lambs:							
Lambs	x	x	x	x	x		x
Ewes	x	x	x	x	x		x
Wethers	x	x	x	x	x		x
Rams		x	x	x	x		x

1/ Official specifications provide for intermediate sub-classes of age and weight groups for which the various ranges of grades are made applicable. For certain sub-classes of each class fewer grades than those shown here are available. In practice, class and grade distinctions are the important ones, and grades listed in this table may be regarded as available for all animals of each class.

Compiled from Market Classes and Grades of Livestock, USDA Department bulletin 1360.

Very few market statistics are available on numbers of livestock falling in the various grade groups. The outstanding exception is the classification of Corn Belt beef steers sold on the Chicago market for slaughter, for which number, price and weight by each of 4 grades have been published since 1922. In July 1948, a similar service was instituted at Omaha and Sioux City.

In 1927, soon after official carcass grades were promulgated, official grading and stamping of beef was started as a voluntary service at Chicago. At first the costs of grading were paid from Federal appropriations but in 1928 grading was placed on a regular service basis supported from fees paid by those requesting the work. Only beef was graded in the early years. Later the service was extended to include grading of veal, lamb and mutton.

and of certain processed meats. It was made available to nearly all markets where demand for the service was large enough for fees received to pay the costs. Grading has been optional except during part of World War II, when it was compulsory for certain kinds and grades of meat. 2/

Table 5 shows the quantity of meat graded by USDA in each year since 1930, and the proportion which gradings of each of 3 meats are of production. For the 3 war years when the largest part of meat production was graded (except pork), the distribution into each grade is shown in table 6. These data are applicable only to the years for which they are recorded and would not necessarily represent exactly the grade distribution for a postwar year. They nevertheless are a rough indication of how large a part of production is encompassed by each of the meat grades as they have been defined.

Meat graded by an official grader is stamped with the official grade by means of a roller stamp that makes a purple ribbon imprint the length of the carcass or wholesale cut. As the stamping fluid is a harmless vegetable compound the grade stamp is seldom trimmed off prior to retailing of meat, and provides a grade identification all the way through merchandising. The imprint for Federally graded meat is always of the designating word. Imprints of letter grades, as A, B, etc., are private grades lacking official standards.

The ribbon grade stamp differs from the round stamp often seen on meat. The round stamp shows that the meat has been inspected and passed as wholesome food, in compliance with regulations for packers engaging in interstate trade established by the Meat Inspection Act of 1906. Federal sanitary inspection is a much older service than grading, having been started in 1891 and extended greatly in 1907. It is financed by Federal funds. 3/

The meat grading service, as well as the market reporting service which utilizes Federal grades of meat animals, is a part of the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. Inspection under the Meat Inspection Act is conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Considerable interest is being shown in the expansion of the Federal meat grading service to the selection and certification of certain "custom-made" meats for large-scale users. This service is not new, having been begun before the establishment of official meat standards, and is an adaptation of regular carcass grading performed for meat packers.

2/ On September 18, 1942 Office of Price Administration RMPR 169 required all Choice beef and veal to be graded by a U. S. official grader. Subsequent revisions of the order included all grades of beef and veal. On April 10, 1943, RMPR 239 required grading of all lamb and mutton carcasses. Official grading of meat was not required from June 30, 1946, when the Emergency Price Control and Stabilization Act expired, until September 1, 1946, when price controls were resumed. On October 16, 1946, grading of all meats was permanently restored to a voluntary basis.

3/ There is now a third official stamp, of diamond design, that may be found on meat beginning this summer. It applies to meat of local slaughterers inspected for wholesomeness. (See page 11.)

Table 5.- Quantity of meat graded or certified as complying with specifications, by the USDA, with ratios to Federally inspected and total commercial production, 1930-49 1/

Year	Beef				Veal			Lamb and mutton		
	Total	meat	graded	2/	Quantity	graded	3/	Quantity	graded	3/
	1,000	pounds	1,000	pounds	1,000	pounds	Percent	1,000	pounds	Percent
	Percentage of --	Federally	Commercial	production	Percentage of --	Federally	Commercial	Percentage of --	Federally	Commercial
	3/	3/	4/	4/	3/	3/	4/	3/	3/	4/
1930	79,364	68,750	1.6	1.2	1,443	0.3	0.2	2,470	0.4	0.3
1931	170,794	159,433	3.7	2.7	1,266	0.3	0.2	4,157	0.6	0.5
1932	223,156	207,437	5.3	3.8	1,356	0.3	0.2	7,610	1.1	0.9
1933	254,933	237,594	5.2	3.9	1,865	0.4	0.2	8,013	1.2	1.0
1934	282,340	261,798	4.4	3.3	1,968	0.2	0.2	9,352	1.4	1.1
1935	319,207	267,775	5.8	4.2	2,772	0.5	0.3	17,538	2.5	2.1
1936	526,396	450,127	8.5	6.3	3,617	0.6	0.4	19,021	2.8	2.3
1937	505,031	408,353	8.7	6.2	5,014	0.7	0.5	23,765	3.5	2.9
1938	716,937	602,809	12.6	9.0	6,180	1.1	0.7	28,015	3.9	3.4
1939	634,049	512,017	10.7	7.5	5,684	1.0	0.6	24,214	3.5	2.9
1940	649,579	578,436	11.7	8.3	6,896	1.2	0.8	24,765	3.5	2.9
1941	1,279,085	789,894	13.8	10.1	9,701	1.6	1.0	32,186	4.3	3.6
1942	3,049,179	1,485,197	23.4	17.3	105,535	15.8	9.9	78,102	8.9	7.7
1943	10,383,040	6,710,715	112.5	80.8	784,869	131.5	72.8	990,772	103.4	91.7
1944	12,343,324	8,355,997	125.6	94.9	1,450,752	156.7	89.1	1,066,480	120.2	5/106.5
1945	12,296,197	9,176,756	126.8	92.4	1,319,006	160.3	85.0	1,024,290	112.2	99.4
1946	9,003,643	6,849,566	121.0	76.0	911,661	142.0	68.6	833,808	98.1	88.1
1947	3,427,132	2,931,463	38.9	29.0	236,525	26.2	15.9	208,870	29.1	26.8
1948	6/2,375,000	2,022,295	31.4	22.8	133,591	16.9	10.1	146,586	22.0	20.1
1949	6/2,550,000	2,279,872	32.6	24.7	104,175	14.0	8.4	107,633	20.1	18.4

1/ Quantities graded based on estimated weight of carcasses and meat products. On September 18, 1942, Office of Price Administration RMPR required all Choice beef and veal to be graded by a U. S. official grader, and on December 16, 1942, the order was revised to include all grades of beef except Cutter and Canner, and of veal except Cull. On April 3, 1943, the order was again revised to include all grades of Canner beef and Cull veal. On April 10, 1943 RMPR 239 required grading of all lamb and mutton carcasses. Official grading was not required in July and August, 1946 when price controls were not in effect. On October 16, 1946, grading of all meats was restored to a voluntary basis.

2/ Includes miscellaneous meats and meat food products in addition to 3 kinds of meat shown, but excludes lard, pork fat and edible tallow.

3/ Virtually all meat graded was produced in Federally inspected plants except during the period in the war when Office of Price Administration regulations required grading of almost all commercially produced meat except pork.

4/ Federally inspected slaughter and other wholesale and retail slaughter, excluding farm slaughter.

5/ Essentially 100 percent. Error due to estimates of carcass weights and/or methods used in building up totals.

6/ Partially estimated, because quantities of lard and other non-meat items not separately reported.

Compiled and computed from data of the Livestock Branch, PMA, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 6.- Percent of Federally graded meat in each grade 1944-46 1/

Beef					
Year	Prime and Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter and Canner
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1944	10.4	28.0	25.3	18.7	17.6
1945	13.9	30.8	26.7	16.6	12.0
1946	15.7	37.6	25.6	13.0	8.1
Veal					
1944	13.4	34.0	31.0	2/21.6	
1945	14.9	33.8	30.0	21.3	
1946	17.0	34.6	28.3	20.1	
Lamb					
1944	33.5	40.5	19.4	2/ 6.6	
1945	47.9	35.2	13.1	3.8	
1946	47.7	35.8	13.0	3.5	
Mutton					
1944	8.0	32.0	27.1	2/32.9	
1945	11.6	34.4	26.2	27.8	
1946	10.9	31.8	24.5	32.8	

1/ Based on estimated weight of carcasses. For explanation of grading regulations during World War II see footnote 1, table 5.

2/ Utility and Cull combined for veal, lamb and mutton, all years.

Compiled from Livestock Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

In this phase of the work, the grader picks out or certifies either carcasses or cuts that meet certain specifications furnished him describing the specific kind of meat the buyer wants. These specifications may or may not refer to official grades and may be wider or narrower in limits than official grades. Large-scale users often find it expedient to have an impartial, experienced grader pick out meat for purchase, as many of them have neither the time nor technical knowledge for such buying. Work is done by the regular personnel of the Federal meat grading service on the usual fee basis. The fee is often paid by the vendor to whom the contract is awarded.

Many of the specifications are refinements of official market grades. Official grades are so wide that grade buying often will not assure the buyer the exact type or weight of carcass or cut of meat he wants. No change in official grades is anticipated because of this demand for within-grade refinements, since the specifications are selective with every buyer.

Recent developments in livestock and meat grading include: (1) a proposal for the revision of the market grades of slaughter barrows and gilts; (2) proposed changes in the official grades of beef; and (3) adoption of sanitation standards for slaughtering plants in which carcasses are officially graded.

The proposed revision in standards for grades of slaughter barrows and gilts is an attempt to set up a more accurate yardstick of market value for hogs. The practice of grading primarily by weight does not adequately recognize the extent to which finish determines not only the percentage yield but also the quality of pork produced. The proposed grades are Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2, Choice No. 3, Medium and Cull. ^{4/} The principal changes these introduce are the omission of Good grade, and addition of Choice No. 2 and Choice No. 3. The proposed Choice No. 1 grade includes barrows and gilts which have about the minimum quantity of fat required to produce a Choice quality carcass. The Choice No. 2 and No. 3 grade hogs carry respectively more fat and produce lower yields of lean cuts, but all trimmed cuts are of Choice quality. Although hogs of the proposed Medium and Cull grade hogs produce carcasses that are higher in lean cut yields, such cuts are subject to discount for quality in proportion to their underfinish.

Although the major emphasis in these revisions is on setting up market grades for live hogs, the proposed grades are based on characteristics of pork produced. Trading on the basis of these proposed grades is being conducted at some points to determine its effectiveness as a means of grading slaughter hogs and the correlation between grades of live hogs and the quality of carcass produced. General acceptance of the proposed grades for slaughter barrows and gilts would most probably lead to a revision of market grades for other classes of hogs and for hog carcasses.

The proposals for changing the Federal grades of beef involve both a changing of names and a change of specifications for one or more grades. The suggestions have arisen principally from the fact that such a small percentage of beef is graded Prime as to render the grade ineffective. Too, since beef is no longer further divided by age of animal slaughtered, young tender beef which has little fat or finish has to date been placed in the Commercial grade along with beef from mature animals. The changes proposed are: To make the Prime designation effective by extending its application to beef now graded Choice; to name as Choice the beef now called Good; and to split the present Commercial grade, separating that beef now in the top half of the Commercial grade which is produced from relatively immature animals and making it the new Good grade. Beef from mature cattle formerly called Commercial and beef from immature animals that qualifies only for the bottom half of the present Commercial grade would continue in that grade. Under such a proposal there would be considerable increases in the quantity of meats graded Prime and Choice. Less beef than formerly would fall into Good and Commercial grades.

^{4/} Proposed Standards for Grades of Slaughter Barrows and Gilts, Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, February 15, 1950.

While these proposals usually refer to beef, it is anticipated that changes would be made in the grading of cattle to maintain the historic relationship between grades of slaughter animals and the expected carcass grade.

A regulation effective September 1, 1949 set up minimum sanitation standards for slaughtering plants eligible for official grading of their meat products. Plants not now under Federal inspection must apply for and pass an inspection before the meat they produce can be given Federal grading. The new rule gives an assurance to the purchaser of meat that U. S. officially graded meat not only has the quality specified by the grade but also has been produced under Federal standards of sanitation. Previously the grade stamp of itself was not a very exact indication of slaughter conditions under which the meat was produced even though, (except for a period during World War II; see footnote, page 16) meat could be graded only if produced under some form of inspection -- Federal, State, or municipal. Since the new regulation does not apply to Federally inspected plants, its effect is to set a uniform minimum standard of sanitation for all non-Federally inspected slaughterers using the grading service, including those not operating under State or local regulations.

This regulation refers only to plants in which carcasses are to be graded and is not intended to supplant sanitation requirements by State or local governments. Nor will the Federal grading stamp replace the carcass stamps certifying Federal, State or local inspection.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Tables 7 to 17 present data revising or extending tables of previous issues of this Situation, particularly the February Statistical Appendix. They are derived mainly from recently published revisions of monthly prices received by farmers by months in 1949 and of commercial meat production in 1948 and 1949; and from the data released May 15 on farm slaughter and meat production in 1949.

Major changes in meat production data are decreases from the original published series on non-Federally inspected commercial production in 1948 and 1949, and from the preliminary estimates of farm meat production in 1949. Because of these changes, the average consumption per person in 1948 and 1949 is each reduced one pound from original estimates, to 145.4 pounds in 1948 and 143.8 pounds in 1949.

Table 17 revises slightly and adds the year 1949 to the table on production and distribution of edible offal published in this Situation for May 1949. Edible offal products such as liver, heart, head meat, tongue, tripe, plucks, sweetbreads and others are not a part of meat production as usually reported but are a significant item in the nation's food supply. Consumption has been estimated at a little more than 10 pounds per person per year.

Data on edible offals have a rather large probable error, because production data are derived by applying a constant percentage factor to meat production and because other data such as stocks and foreign trade do not cover all offal products.

A fuller explanation of the offal data may be found in the May 1949 issue.

Table 7.- Meat production and consumption from total United States slaughter, 1899 to date 1/

Year	Beef			Veal			Lamb and mutton			Pork (excluding lard)			All meats			Lard			Population
	Production	Consumption	Per capita	Production	Consumption	Per capita	Production	Consumption	Per capita	Production	Consumption	Per capita	Production	Consumption	Per capita	Production	Consumption	Per capita	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mill.
1899	5,522	5,029	67.2	387	387	5.2	487	486	6.5	6,310	5,371	71.8	12,706	11,273	150.7	1,679	954	12.3	74.8
1900	5,628	5,104	67.1	397	397	5.2	492	492	6.5	6,329	5,476	71.9	12,847	11,469	150.7	1,653	1,002	13.2	76.1
1901	5,814	5,266	67.9	422	422	5.4	548	548	7.0	6,357	5,493	70.8	13,141	11,729	151.1	1,650	997	12.8	77.6
1902	5,649	5,148	65.0	476	476	6.0	564	560	6.9	5,936	5,288	66.7	12,625	11,472	144.8	1,493	956	12.1	79.2
1903	5,240	5,111	70.2	492	492	6.1	563	560	6.9	6,067	5,498	68.2	13,362	12,261	152.1	1,529	952	11.8	80.6
1904	6,176	5,719	69.6	491	491	6.0	538	537	6.5	6,387	5,803	70.6	13,592	12,550	152.7	1,638	1,031	12.5	82.2
1905	6,504	5,973	71.3	556	556	6.6	530	529	6.3	6,945	5,945	71.0	14,219	13,003	155.2	1,742	991	11.8	83.8
1906	6,537	6,087	71.3	598	598	7.0	543	542	6.3	6,793	6,065	71.0	14,471	13,292	155.2	1,730	1,002	11.7	85.4
1907	6,544	6,141	70.6	626	626	7.2	553	551	6.3	7,059	6,443	74.1	14,782	13,761	158.2	1,795	1,146	13.2	87.0
1908	6,662	6,393	72.1	637	637	7.2	559	557	6.3	7,535	6,898	77.7	15,393	14,485	163.3	1,911	1,277	14.4	88.7
1909	6,915	6,713	73.5	660	660	7.1	608	606	6.7	7,557	6,965	86.4	14,740	14,044	153.8	1,628	1,127	12.3	91.3
1910	6,647	6,508	69.8	667	667	7.1	597	597	6.4	6,087	5,756	61.8	13,998	13,527	145.1	1,553	1,156	12.4	93.2
1911	6,549	6,426	67.9	666	666	7.0	693	690	7.3	6,961	6,482	68.4	14,869	14,264	150.6	1,747	1,138	12.0	94.7
1912	6,234	6,153	64.0	662	662	6.9	735	729	7.6	6,822	6,357	66.2	14,453	13,901	144.7	1,658	1,102	11.5	96.1
1913	6,182	6,157	62.8	608	609	6.2	706	701	7.2	6,979	6,501	66.3	14,475	13,968	142.5	1,653	1,073	10.9	98.0
1914	6,087	6,144	61.5	569	572	5.7	693	708	7.1	6,824	6,453	64.6	14,103	13,877	138.9	1,554	1,090	10.9	99.9
1915	6,075	5,668	56.0	590	591	5.8	605	612	6.0	7,616	6,690	66.1	14,886	13,561	133.9	1,689	1,198	11.8	101.3
1916	6,460	6,003	58.4	655	656	5.8	585	595	5.8	8,207	7,037	68.4	15,907	14,291	139.0	1,706	1,228	11.9	102.8
1917	7,239	6,687	64.2	744	745	7.1	463	463	4.4	7,055	6,093	58.5	15,501	13,988	134.2	1,451	1,091	10.5	104.2
1918	7,726	7,167	68.0	760	761	7.2	506	499	4.7	8,349	6,384	60.6	17,341	14,811	140.5	1,899	1,291	12.2	105.4
1919	6,756	6,462	61.0	819	824	7.3	590	598	5.6	8,477	6,712	63.4	16,642	14,596	137.8	1,920	1,174	11.1	105.9
1920	6,306	6,293	58.6	842	852	7.9	538	578	5.4	7,648	6,766	63.1	15,334	14,489	135.0	1,958	1,319	12.3	107.3
1921	6,022	6,024	55.1	820	824	7.5	639	662	6.1	7,697	7,029	64.3	15,178	14,539	133.0	2,108	1,217	12.1	109.3
1922	6,588	6,503	58.6	852	858	7.7	553	565	5.1	8,145	7,236	65.3	16,138	15,162	136.7	2,302	1,503	13.6	110.9
1923	6,721	6,671	59.2	916	919	8.1	597	592	5.3	9,483	8,310	73.7	17,708	16,492	146.3	2,718	1,643	14.5	114.9
1924	6,877	6,786	59.1	972	977	8.5	663	662	5.5	9,149	8,451	73.5	17,595	16,810	146.3	2,660	1,663	14.5	114.9
1925	6,878	6,888	59.1	989	993	8.5	603	605	5.2	8,128	7,734	66.3	16,649	16,199	137.0	2,253	1,453	12.5	116.8
1926	7,089	7,074	59.8	955	959	8.1	639	637	5.4	7,966	7,058	67.3	16,321	16,048	134.0	2,265	1,541	12.9	119.8
1927	6,395	6,484	54.1	867	875	7.3	629	631	5.3	8,430	8,058	70.5	16,248	15,860	130.8	2,458	1,626	13.4	121.3
1928	5,771	5,872	48.4	773	781	6.4	663	662	5.5	9,041	8,545	69.2	16,147	15,984	130.4	2,461	1,598	13.0	122.6
1929	5,871	6,048	49.3	761	766	6.3	682	686	5.6	8,833	8,484	66.6	16,016	15,885	128.3	2,207	1,584	12.8	123.8
1930	5,917	6,025	48.3	823	824	6.4	825	824	6.7	8,482	8,246	66.6	16,456	16,212	129.9	2,307	1,706	13.7	124.8
1931	6,009	6,025	48.3	823	824	6.4	825	824	6.7	8,482	8,246	66.6	16,456	16,212	129.9	2,307	1,706	13.7	124.8
1932	5,769	5,830	46.4	822	822	6.5	834	882	7.0	8,923	8,825	70.3	16,418	16,359	130.2	2,380	1,814	14.4	125.6
1933	6,440	6,469	51.2	891	891	7.1	852	849	6.7	9,234	8,885	70.3	17,417	17,094	135.3	2,475	1,772	14.0	126.3
1934	8,345	8,066	63.5	1,246	1,182	9.3	851	798	6.3	8,397	8,141	64.0	18,839	18,187	143.1	2,091	1,648	13.0	127.1
1935	6,608	6,770	52.9	1,023	1,087	8.5	877	923	7.2	5,919	6,155	48.1	14,427	14,935	116.7	1,276	1,226	9.6	128.0
1936	7,358	7,742	60.1	1,075	1,075	8.3	854	849	6.6	7,474	7,061	54.8	16,761	16,727	129.8	1,679	1,449	11.2	128.9
1937	6,798	7,107	54.8	1,108	1,108	8.6	852	857	6.6	6,951	7,185	55.4	15,709	16,500	126.2	1,431	1,361	10.5	129.6
1938	6,908	7,058	54.0	994	994	7.6	897	894	6.8	7,680	7,554	57.8	16,479	16,500	126.2	1,728	1,440	11.0	130.7
1939	7,011	7,159	54.4	991	991	7.5	872	869	6.6	8,660	8,474	64.3	17,534	17,493	132.8	2,037	1,671	12.7	131.7
1940	7,175	7,257	54.7	981	981	7.4	876	873	6.8	10,044	9,701	73.0	19,076	18,812	141.7	2,288	1,924	14.5	132.8
1941	8,082	8,021	60.5	1,036	1,005	7.6	923	901	6.8	9,528	9,007	67.9	19,569	18,934	142.8	2,228	1,879	14.2	132.6
1942	8,843	8,049	60.8	1,151	1,084	8.2	1,042	950	7.2	10,876	8,368	63.3	21,912	18,451	139.5	2,401	1,759	13.3	132.3
1943	8,571	8,660	52.9	1,167	1,059	8.2	1,104	830	6.4	13,640	10,172	78.5	24,482	18,921	146.0	2,865	1,820	14.0	129.6
1944	9,112	7,146	55.3	1,738	1,594	12.4	1,024	857	7.2	13,304	10,230	79.2	25,178	19,827	153.5	3,054	1,824	14.1	129.2
1945	10,275	7,663	59.0	1,661	1,533	11.8	1,054	943	7.3	10,697	8,598	66.3	23,637	18,737	144.4	2,066	1,622	12.5	129.8
1946	9,373	8,533	61.3	1,440	1,379	9.9	970	925	6.6	11,173	10,530	75.6	22,956	21,367	153.4	2,138	1,669	12.0	130.3
1947	10,428	9,913	69.1	1,599	1,540	10.7	802	765	5.4	10,601	10,018	69.8	23,430	22,236	155.0	2,426	1,928	13.4	143.3
1948	9,079	9,157	62.6	1,412	1,373	9.4	750	735	5.0	10,205	9,953	68.4	21,446	21,258	145.4	2,356	2,008	13.7	146.2
1949	9,442	9,424	63.4	1,322	1,299	8.7	607	611	4.1	10,333	10,042	67.6	21,710	21,376	143.8	2,552	1,908	12.8	148.6

1/ Beginning 1940, data exclude meat produced in Hawaii and Virgin Islands. Beginning 1941, consumption is civilian only. Units are carcasses weight equivalent; exclude edible offals.

2/ Computed from unrounded numbers. Includes lard entering into manufactured products.

3/ Beginning 1909, adjusted for underenumeration of children under 5 years.

4/ Includes production and consumption for Government emergency programs, data for which can be found in The Livestock and Meat Situation for February, 1949, p. 23.

5/ Preliminary.

Revises table 8 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 8.- Livestock slaughtered and meat and lard produced, by class of slaughter,
United States, 1948 and 1949

Year	Livestock slaughter				Meat production					
	Commercial				Commercial					
	Federally inspected	Other	Total	Farm	Federally inspected	Other	Total	Farm	Total	Total
	: and retail:	: wholesale :	: Total :	: Farm :	: and retail:	: wholesale :	: Total :	: Farm :	: Total :	: Total :
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1948	12,994	5,392	18,386	800	6,433	2,333	8,766	313	9,079	9,079
1949	13,222	4,791	18,013	776	6,998	2,144	9,142	306	9,448	9,448
	Cattle				Beef					
	Calves				Veal					
1948	6,907	4,860	11,767	561	791	532	1,323	89	1,412	1,412
1949	6,449	4,379	10,828	517	746	494	1,240	82	1,322	1,322
	Sheep and lambs				Lamb and mutton					
1948	15,343	1,554	16,897	542	665	63	728	22	750	750
1949	12,136	1,240	13,376	496	536	51	587	20	607	607
	Hogs				Pork, excluding lard					
1948	47,615	12,054	59,669	12,267	6,832	1,654	8,486	1,719	10,205	10,205
1949	53,032	10,712	63,744	11,549	7,352	1,393	8,745	1,588	10,333	10,333
	Lard production ^{1/}				All meat, excluding lard					
1948	1,680	252	1,932	424	14,721	4,582	19,303	2,143	21,446	21,446
1949	1,923	247	2,170	382	15,632	4,082	19,714	1,996	21,710	21,710

^{1/} Including rendered pork fat.

Revises table 9 of the Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Month

1/ Annual State averages weighted by shipments and local slaughter.

Revises table 16 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 10.- Hog-corn price ratio, Chicago and United States, by months, 1930 to date 1/

Chicago, based on prices of barrows and gilts 2/													
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av. 3/
1937	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	11.3	15.6	16.3	14.2	
1938	:13.5	14.8	15.9	14.2	14.3	15.5	16.2	16.3	16.9	17.7	16.7	14.3	15.5
1939	:14.3	16.3	15.8	14.4	13.3	12.9	13.9	13.8	14.4	14.6	12.2	9.7	13.8
1940	:9.2	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.3	7.9	9.7	10.1	10.5	9.9	9.6	10.4	9.4
1941	:12.3	12.5	11.7	12.2	12.6	13.4	15.1	15.0	15.5	15.3	14.5	14.2	13.7
1942	:14.0	15.4	16.4	17.3	16.5	16.9	16.9	17.5	17.4	19.4	17.3	15.7	16.7
1943 2/	:15.4	15.9	15.5	14.7	13.6	13.1	13.0	13.5	14.0	15.8	12.9	11.7	13.9
1944 2/	:11.8	11.9	12.1	11.8	11.4	11.4	11.9	12.6	12.7	12.8	13.0	12.5	12.2
1945 2/	:12.7	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8
1946 2/	:12.8	12.9	12.5	12.5	11.1	10.3	8.4	11.4	8.6	12.7	17.4	17.3	12.1
1947	:17.2	18.4	15.8	13.4	12.7	11.1	11.4	11.2	11.2	11.7	10.4	10.2	12.9
1948	:10.0	10.0	9.4	8.6	8.8	10.2	13.1	15.2	16.0	17.6	16.6	15.0	12.5
1949	:13.8	15.6	15.3	13.6	13.9	15.3	15.3	16.4	15.8	15.7	13.9	11.9	14.2
1950	:12.0	13.0	12.3	11.5									
United States, based on prices received by farmers for all hogs													
1930	:11.4	12.3	13.0	11.8	11.6	11.6	10.9	9.5	10.4	10.8	12.3	11.4	11.4
1931	:11.7	11.5	12.0	11.9	11.1	10.4	11.4	12.2	12.4	13.7	11.5	10.4	11.7
1932	:10.7	10.5	12.0	11.2	9.4	9.2	14.3	13.4	13.3	14.5	15.2	13.8	12.3
1933	:13.6	15.1	15.6	11.3	10.1	9.9	7.2	7.7	8.0	10.8	9.0	6.6	10.4
1934	:8.7	8.5	8.2	7.3	6.3	5.2	6.7	6.4	7.9	6.7	6.6	6.0	7.0
1935	:8.3	8.7	10.2	9.6	9.7	10.4	10.6	13.2	13.6	13.5	15.2	16.6	11.6
1936	:17.0	17.3	16.7	16.9	14.5	14.8	11.6	9.8	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.5	13.0
1937	:9.5	9.1	8.9	7.7	7.9	8.7	9.3	11.5	11.5	16.8	17.2	15.6	11.1
1938	:14.7	15.1	16.6	14.9	14.1	15.6	16.2	16.2	17.1	17.3	18.2	16.0	16.0
1939	:15.5	16.6	16.1	14.5	13.1	11.8	12.5	11.6	12.2	13.7	12.4	9.9	13.3
1940	:9.7	9.1	8.7	8.4	8.5	7.5	9.3	9.4	10.0	9.8	9.9	10.3	9.2
1941	:13.3	13.0	12.5	13.2	12.6	13.4	14.8	15.0	15.9	15.6	15.2	15.4	14.2
1942	:14.7	15.5	16.0	16.9	16.3	16.3	15.6	16.9	16.4	18.2	17.7	16.5	16.5
1943	:16.0	16.2	15.5	14.3	13.4	12.8	12.2	12.6	12.9	13.1	12.3	11.5	13.6
1944	:11.3	11.4	11.5	11.3	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.5	11.7	12.2	12.7	12.6	11.6
1945	:12.9	13.2	15.1	13.2	13.1	12.7	12.6	12.4	12.6	12.5	12.8	13.0	12.8
1946	:12.8	12.8	12.5	12.2	10.6	10.1	8.3	11.6	9.3	13.1	18.1	18.7	12.6
1947	:13.1	13.8	17.7	14.7	14.0	11.9	10.9	10.8	11.1	12.2	11.1	10.6	13.6
1948	:10.8	11.2	10.2	9.3	9.2	10.6	12.5	14.1	15.4	17.9	18.0	17.0	13.0
1949	:15.7	17.2	16.9	15.0	14.7	15.5	14.9	16.4	17.1	16.1	15.3	13.1	15.7
1950	:13.1	14.3	13.5	12.4									

1/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs. Chicago ratio not available before September 1937.

2/ Corn price is of No. 3 Yellow. Ceiling prices of corn used July-December, 1943, March to September 1944 and January 1945 to June 1946.

3/ Unweighted average of ratios for individual months.

Revises table 21, page 46 of February 1950 Livestock and Meat Situation.

Table 11.- Summary of total meat supply and distribution, United States, by quarter-year, 1948 and 1949

Period	Carcass-weight equivalent						
	Federally inspected				Non-	Civilian	
	Supply 1/	Ending stocks	Disappearance 2/		inspected	consumption	
			Non-	Civilian 3/		Total	Per capita 5/
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.
1948							
Jan.-Mar.	4,526	803	128	3,595	1,944	5,539	38.1
Apr.-June	4,287	679	120	3,488	1,732	5,220	35.7
July-Sept.	4,037	326	146	3,565	1,318	4,883	33.4
Oct.-Dec.	4,756	665	206	3,885	1,731	5,616	38.2
Year	15,798	665	600	14,533	6,725	21,258	145.4
1949							
Jan.-Mar.	4,680	743	171	3,766	1,710	5,476	37.1
Apr.-June	4,364	508	146	3,710	1,466	5,176	34.9
July-Sept.	4,297	283	145	3,869	1,275	5,144	34.5
Oct.-Dec.	4,732	625	154	3,953	1,627	5,580	37.3
Year	16,539	625	616	15,298	6,078	21,376	143.8

1/ Production plus imports plus beginning stocks.

2/ Supply minus ending stocks, divided into civilian and non-civilian uses.

3/ Net USDA, Armed Forces, and other war agency purchases from domestic supplies and imports, plus commercial exports and shipments.

4/ Non-inspected wholesale and retail production, and consumption from farm slaughter, considered to be entirely for civilian consumption.

5/ Based on population eating from civilian supplies, including adjustment for under-enumeration of children.

Revises table 30 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 12.- Civilian consumption of meat, total and per capita, by classes, by quarter-year, 1948 and 1949

Year	Beef		Veal		Lamb and mutton		Pork, excluding lard		All meat	
	Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita	Total	Per capita
	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.
1948										
Jan.-Mar.	2,357	16.2	324	2.2	194	1.3	2,664	18.4	5,539	38.1
Apr.-June	2,239	15.3	324	2.2	164	1.1	2,493	17.1	5,220	35.7
July-Sept.	2,240	15.3	367	2.5	184	1.3	2,092	14.3	4,883	33.4
Oct.-Dec.	2,321	15.8	358	2.5	193	1.3	2,744	18.6	5,616	38.2
Total	9,157	62.6	1,373	9.4	735	5.0	9,993	68.4	21,258	145.4
1949										
Jan.-Mar.	2,359	16.0	296	2.0	174	1.2	2,647	17.9	5,476	37.1
Apr.-June	2,364	16.0	302	2.0	123	0.8	2,387	16.1	5,176	34.9
July-Sept.	2,434	16.3	352	2.4	155	1.0	2,203	14.8	5,144	34.5
Oct.-Dec.	2,267	15.1	349	2.3	159	1.1	2,805	18.8	5,580	37.3
Total	9,424	63.4	1,299	8.7	611	4.1	10,042	67.6	21,376	143.8

Revises table 31 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Carcass-weight equivalent

For footnotes see next page.

Continued --

Table 13.- Supply and distribution of meat, United States, by classes,
by quarter-year, 1948-continued

Carcass-weight equivalent

Item	Pork excluding lard						All meats					
	Jan.-	April-	July-	Oct.-	Jan.-	April-	July-	Oct.-	Jan.-	April-	July-	Oct.-
	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
Federally inspected												
Supply												
Beginning stocks	518	646	582	235	518	727	803	679	326			727
Production	1,783	1,639	1,248	2,162	6,832	3,757	3,426	3,340	4,298			14,721
Imports	1/	1/	1/	1	1	42	58	118	132			350
Total	2,301	2,285	1,830	2,398	7,351	4,526	4,287	4,037	4,756			15,798
Distribution												
Non-civilian												
Net armed forces	31	36	50	63	180	89	86	115	174			464
Commercial exports and shipments	24	21	16	21	82	39	34	31	32			136
Total	55	57	66	84	262	128	120	146	206			600
Ending stocks	646	582	235	469	469	803	679	326	665			665
Civilian residual	1,600	1,646	1,529	1,845	6,620	3,595	5,488	3,565	3,885			14,533
Non-Federally inspected												
Civilian consumption	1,064	847	563	899	3,373	1,944	1,732	1,318	1,731			6,725
Total civilian consumption	2,664	2,493	2,092	2,744	9,993	5,539	5,220	4,883	5,616			21,258
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.			Lb.
Civilian consumption per person	18.4	17.1	14.3	18.6	68.4	38.1	35.7	33.4	38.2			145.4
1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.												

Revises table 27 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1949.

Table 14.- Supply and distribution of meat, United States, by classes,
by quarter-year, 1949

Carcass-weight equivalent

Item	Beef				Veal				Lamb and mutton						
	Jan.- Mar.	April- June	July- Sept.	Oct.- Dec.	Year	Jan.- Mar.	April- June	July- Sept.	Oct.- Dec.	Year	Jan.- Mar.	April- June	July- Sept.	Oct.- Dec.	Year
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Federally inspected															
Supply															
Beginning stocks	149	127	74	63	149	21	16	7	8	21	26	14	7	7	26
Production	1,739	1,709	1,843	1,707	6,998	158	166	211	211	746	146	102	140	148	536
Imports	52	39	78	59	228	1	1	2	3	7	1/	1/	1	3	4
Total	1,940	1,875	1,995	1,829	7,375	180	183	220	222	774	172	116	148	158	566
Distribution															
Non-civilian															
Net armed forces	78	50	69	56	253	6	6	9	12	33	3	1	2	4	10
Commercial exports and shipments	5	7	8	7	27	1/	1/	1	1	2	1/	1/	1	1	2
Total	83	57	77	63	280	6	6	10	13	35	3	1	3	5	12
Ending stocks	127	74	63	121	121	16	7	8	16	16	14	7	7	14	14
Civilian residual	1,750	1,744	1,855	1,645	6,974	158	170	202	193	723	155	108	138	139	540
Non-Federally inspected															
Civilian consumption	629	620	579	622	2,450	138	132	150	156	576	19	15	17	20	71
Total civilian consumption	2,359	2,364	2,434	2,267	9,424	296	302	352	349	1,299	174	123	155	159	611
Civilian consumption per person	16.0	16.0	16.3	15.1	63.4	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.3	8.7	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.1	4.1

For footnotes see next page.

Continued --

Table 14.- Supply and distribution of meat, United States, by classes,
by quarter-year, 1949-continued

Carcass-weight equivalent

Item	Pork excluding lard				All meats					
	Jan.- Mar.	April- June	July- Sept.	Oct.- Dec.	Year	Jan.- Mar.	April- June	July- Sept.	Oct.- Dec.	Year
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
Federally inspected										
Supply										
Beginning stocks.....	469	586	420	205	469	665	743	508	283	665
Production	1,919	1,603	1,513	2,317	7,352	3,962	3,580	3,707	4,383	15,632
Imports	1/	1	1	1	3	53	41	82	66	242
Total	2,388	2,190	1,934	2,523	7,824	4,680	4,364	4,297	4,732	16,539
Distribution										
Non-civilian										
Net USDA purchases	---	2/4	---	---	4	---	2/4	---	---	4
Net armed forces	59	45	26	51	181	146	102	106	123	477
Commercial exports and shipments	20	33	29	22	104	25	40	39	31	135
Total	79	82	55	73	289	171	146	145	154	616
Ending stocks	586	420	205	474	474	743	508	283	625	625
Civilian residual	1,723	1,688	1,674	1,976	7,061	3,766	3,710	3,869	3,953	15,298
Non-Federally inspected										
Civilian consumption	924	699	529	829	2,981	1,710	1,466	1,275	1,627	6,078
Total civilian consumption:	2,647	2,387	2,203	2,805	10,042	5,476	5,176	5,144	5,580	21,376
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Civilian consumption per person	17.9	16.1	14.8	18.8	67.6	37.1	34.9	34.5	37.3	143.8

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

2/ Special purchase by USDA for IRC.

Revises table 32 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 15.- Livestock slaughter and meat production, United States, by quarter-year, 1948

Period and item	Cattle				Calves				Sheep and lambs				Hogs			
	Beef		Veal		Lamb & mutton		Pork		Total		Total		Total		Total	
	Number	produced	Number	produced	Number	produced	Number	produced	Number	produced	Number	produced	Number	produced	Number	produced
	: head	: per head	: head	: per head	: head	: per head	: head	: per head	: head	: per head	: head	: per head	: head	: per head	: head	: per head
	1,000	Million	1,000	Million	1,000	Million	1,000	Million	1,000	Million	1,000	Million	1,000	Million	1,000	Million
January-March																
Federally inspected:	3,275	504	1,643	1,664	97	160	3,730	46	171	12,543	142	1,783	3,757			
Other wholesale and retail	1,375	438	602	1,298	101	131	337	40	14	3,708	134	497	1,244			
April-June																
Federally inspected:	2,885	512	1,470	1,679	105	176	3,285	43	141	11,140	147	1,639	3,426			
Other wholesale and retail	1,388	442	613	1,329	106	141	394	41	16	3,020	133	417	1,187			
July-September																
Federally inspected:	3,310	486	1,599	1,745	131	228	3,923	42	165	8,320	150	1,248	3,240			
Other wholesale and retail	1,322	424	560	1,137	119	135	432	40	18	2,192	139	305	1,018			
October-December																
Federally inspected:	3,524	491	1,721	1,819	125	227	4,405	43	188	15,612	139	2,162	4,298			
Other wholesale and retail	1,507	427	558	1,096	114	125	391	39	15	3,134	139	435	1,133			
Year																
Federally inspected:	12,994	498	6,433	6,907	115	791	15,343	44	665	47,615	144	6,832	14,721			
Other wholesale and retail	5,392	433	2,333	4,860	109	532	1,554	41	63	12,054	137	1,654	4,582			
Farm	800	391	313	561	158	89	542	40	22	12,267	140	1,719	2,143			
Total	19,186	475	9,079	12,328	115	1,412	17,439	43	750	71,536	142	10,205	21,446			
1/ Excludes lard.																

Revises table 21 of Livestock and Meat Situation for May 1949.

Table 16.- Livestock slaughter and meat production, United States, by quarter-year, 1949

Period and item	Cattle				Calves				Sheep and lambs				Hogs			
	Beef		Veal		Lamb & mutton:		Pork		Lamb & mutton:		Pork		Lamb & mutton:		Pork	
	produced		produced		produced		produced		produced		produced		produced		produced	
	Number	Per head	Number	Per head	Number	Per head	Number	Per head	Number	Per head	Number	Per head	Number	Per head	Number	Per head
	1,000	head	1,000	head	1,000	head	1,000	head	1,000	head	1,000	head	1,000	head	1,000	head
January-March																
Federally inspected:	3,222	542	1,739	1,579	102	158	3,229	45	146	13,771	140	1,919	3,962			
Other wholesale																
and retail	1,168	455	531	1,108	102	113	274	44	12	3,060	131	400	1,056			
April-June																
Federally inspected:	3,116	551	1,709	1,605	104	166	3,335	44	102	11,360	141	1,603	3,580			
Other wholesale																
and retail	1,149	457	525	1,090	109	119	298	40	12	2,321	130	302	958			
July-September																
Federally inspected:	3,547	522	1,843	1,602	132	211	3,282	43	140	10,461	145	1,513	3,707			
Other wholesale																
and retail	1,265	440	556	1,098	124	136	353	40	14	2,228	130	291	997			
October-December																
Federally inspected:	3,337	515	1,707	1,663	127	211	3,290	45	148	17,440	133	2,317	4,383			
Other wholesale																
and retail	1,209	440	532	1,085	116	126	315	41	13	3,103	129	400	1,071			
Year																
Federally inspected:	13,222	532	6,998	6,449	116	746	12,136	44	536	53,032	139	7,352	15,632			
Other wholesale																
and retail	4,791	448	2,144	4,379	113	494	1,240	41	51	10,712	130	1,393	4,082			
Farm	776	394	306	517	159	82	496	40	20	11,549	137	1,588	1,996			
Total	18,789	505	9,448	11,345	117	1,322	13,872	44	607	75,293	137	10,333	21,710			
1/ Excludes lard.																

Revises table 33 of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 17.- Edible offals: Supply and distribution, United States, by calendar years, 1934 to date

Year	Supply			Distribution				
	Total production 1/ Mil. lb.	Beginning commercial stocks 2/ Mil. lb.	Imports Mil. lb.	Total supply Mil. lb.	Ending stocks 3/ Mil. lb.	Commercial : exports and shipments 4/ Mil. lb.		Domestic disappearance 5/ Mil. lb.
1934	1,298	65	4/	1,363	126	23	---	1,209
1935	994	126	1/	1,121	74	17	---	1,030
1936	1,152	74	4/	1,226	132	18	---	1,076
1937	1,083	132	1/	1,216	67	14	---	1,135
1938	1,130	67	4/	1,197	72	19	---	1,106
1939	1,200	72	1/	1,273	95	19	---	1,159
1940	1,303	95	2	1,400	102	11	---	1,287
1941	1,338	102	4	1,444	105	8	---	1,331
1942	1,498	105	2	1,605	86	11	4/	1,508
1943	1,669	86	4/	1,755	137	22	2/	1,594
1944	1,740	5/97	4/	1,837	37	68	2	1,730
1945	1,637	37	4/	1,674	41	3	3	1,627
1946	1,580	41	4/	1,621	56	1	4/	1,564
1947	1,621	56	4/	1,677	71	9	4/	1,597
1948	1,481	71	5/	1,557	58	1	4/	1,498
1949	1,498	58	9	1,565	62	2	4/	1,501

1/ Production of offals as percentage of dressed weight of meat production, including farm: Beef 6.7, Veal 10.7, Lamb and Mutton 5.1, Pork excluding lard 6.7 percent.

2/ Trimmings included prior to July 1, 1944; excluded beginning that date.

3/ Calculated from number of persons eating out of civilian supplies July 1 adjusted for underenumeration of children under 5 years of age.

4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

5/ Adjusted by 40 million pounds as estimated allowance for trimmings, which were reported in stocks prior to July 1, 1944.

Revises and brings to date table 7 of Livestock and Meat Situation for May, 1949. Series on commercial exports and shipments, 1934 to date, was revised considerably.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals ^{1/}

Item	Unit	January-April Av.			1950		
		1949	1950	1949 April	1950 March	1950 April	1950 May
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per:						
Chicago, Choice and Prime	100 pounds	26.68	33.67	25.81	32.24	30.94	
Good	do.	24.07	27.58	24.37	27.33	27.66	
Medium	do.	22.09	24.50	22.87	24.51	25.21	
Common	do.	20.33	21.78	21.22	22.13	22.99	
All grades	do.	23.74	26.10	24.20	25.90	26.94	
Omaha, all grades	do.	22.66	24.70	23.14	24.74	25.62	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	22.33	24.85	23.10	24.75	26.04	
Cows, Chicago							
Good	do.	18.92	19.59	19.88	20.60	21.00	
Common	do.	2/16.14	16.84	2/16.47	17.42	17.85	
Canner and Cutter	do.	3/15.21	14.61	3/15.34	14.84	15.27	
Vealers, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	29.80	30.18	27.58	29.39	29.46	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	22.86	24.54	23.66	25.32	25.79	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	20.20	20.65	21.00	21.00	21.80	23.20
Veal calves	do.	24.28	24.22	24.40	24.40	24.60	25.70
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	20.69	16.44	18.91	16.17	15.80	
180-200 pounds	do.	20.84	16.75	19.13	16.59	16.32	
200-220 pounds	do.	20.73	16.80	19.14	16.72	16.52	
220-240 pounds	do.	20.35	16.60	19.02	16.70	16.52	
240-270 pounds	do.	19.76	16.26	18.72	16.51	16.41	
270-300 pounds	do.	19.05	15.90	18.14	16.21	16.20	
All weights	do.	19.65	16.28	18.60	16.41	16.33	
Seven markets ^{4/}	do.	19.53	16.26	18.38	16.38	16.25	
Sows, Chicago	do.	16.24	14.07	15.34	14.52	14.67	
Price received by farmers	do.	19.30	15.85	18.30	16.10	15.60	18.50
Hog-corn price ratio ^{5/}							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	14.6	12.2	13.6	12.3	11.5	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	16.2	13.3	15.0	13.5	12.4	13.8
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	12.27	13.11	13.70	13.99	13.18	
Price received by farmers	do.	9.82	10.48	10.80	11.00	11.10	11.00
Lambs							
Slaughter, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	26.80	25.48	29.39	26.88	26.54	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	---	6/25.12	---	26.59	---	
Price received by farmers	do.	23.32	22.98	25.80	23.70	23.80	24.60
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		321	303	324	308	312	
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per:						
Steer beef carcass, Good, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	38.55	43.02	39.62	42.12	43.82	
Lamb carcass, Good, 30-40 pounds	do.	50.35	7/45.50	57.97	---	---	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	21.98	17.94	20.85	17.90	17.98	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	30.18	24.63	28.62	24.57	24.68	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	25.45	20.95	24.92	21.20	20.78	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	35.68	29.37	34.94	29.73	29.14	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Good grade	per pound	64.0	67.4	64.1	67.6	68.1	
Lamb	do.	64.3	65.4	75.4	65.8	69.2	
Pork, including lard	do.	41.6	36.4	41.7	37.1	36.6	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1926=100)		220.5	213.3	224.9	213.6	214.9	
Retail (1935-39=100)		222.9	221.9	228.5	224.5	224.8	

^{1/} Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.^{2/} Cutter and Common.^{3/} Average for prices of Cutter and Common, and of Canner (Low Cutter).^{4/} Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, and S. St. Paul.^{5/} Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.^{6/} Average of prices for January, February and March.^{7/} Price of January only, since these prices given only for heavier weights.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	January-April		1949 April	1950		
		1949	1950		March	April	May
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		134	135	125	137	122	
Stocker and feeder shipments to							
8 Corn Belt States	:1,000						
Cattle and calves	:head	392	514	100	141	128	
Sheep and lambs	:do.	349	425	63	101	98	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	:do.	4,218	4,082	996	1,082	959	
Calves	:do.	2,141	1,988	562	586	494	
Sheep and lambs	:do.	3,905	3,713	676	939	834	
Hogs	:do.	17,665	19,371	3,894	5,020	4,316	
Percentage sows	:Percent	9	10	10	9	11	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	:Pounds	991	995	996	995	991	
Calves	:do.	178	181	170	170	181	
Sheep and lambs	:do.	98	102	97	103	100	
Hogs	:do.	249	240	242	234	242	
Average production							
Beef, per head	:do.	546	546	558	547	551	
Veal, per head	:do.	100	102	96	96	102	
Lamb and mutton, per head	:do.	47	48	47	49	48	
Pork, per head <u>2/</u>	:do.	139	134	136	133	133	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight <u>2/</u> ..	:do.	56	56	56	57	56	
Lard, per head	:do.	38	35	35	34	35	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight ..	:do.	15	15	15	14	15	
Total production	:Million:						
Beef	:pounds	2,291	2,216	552	589	526	
Veal	:do.	212	200	54	55	50	
Lamb and mutton	:do.	177	180	31	46	40	
Pork <u>2/</u>	:do.	2,447	2,598	528	665	574	
Lard	:do.	666	684	137	168	151	
Total commercial slaughter <u>3/</u>							
Number slaughtered	:1,000						
Cattle	:head	5,751	5,603	1,361	1,479	1,323	
Calves	:do.	3,617	3,405	930	989	834	
Sheep and lambs	:do.	4,267	4,048	764	1,020	922	
Hogs	:do.	21,565	23,512	4,734	6,060	5,221	
Total production	:Million:						
Beef	:pounds	2,991	2,918	721	772	694	
Veal	:do.	362	350	91	96	87	
Lamb and mutton	:do.	192	195	34	50	44	
Pork <u>2/</u>	:do.	2,957	3,121	636	794	687	
Lard	:do.	755	786	157	196	174	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	:do.	---	---	127	113	100	90
Veal	:do.	---	---	16	11	10	8
Lamb and mutton	:do.	---	---	14	13	11	8
Pork	:do.	---	---	586	573	549	539
Total meat and meat products <u>4/</u>	:do.	---	---	861	816	778	748

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.

2/ Excludes lard.

3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

4/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

